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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROJECTION FORCES

RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND OCEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY
REFORM AND OVERSIGHT
BANKING MEMBER

September 21, 2005

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington, DC 20301


Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

We write to request increased Department of Defense (DoD) support for the evacuation and transfer of military dependents who have been displaced from their homes as a result of Hurricane Katrina. We are informed that buildings and infrastructure on at least seven of our nation's military installations have been significantly damaged. The destruction of housing, both on base and in surrounding communities, and the resulting displacement of military families, is a source of concern for which we request your attention.

In many cases, we understand affected families have lost or vacated their housing units. Many displaced families are in emergency housing or interim housing arrangements. With the expected lengthy duration of the recovery effort and necessary rebuilding, many families will remain displaced for an indeterminate period. In light of this situation, we believe it is important for these families to be afforded the opportunity to return to their home of record or to travel outside the region to supporting family. Therefore, we respectfully request that you take the actions necessary to ensure this option is provided to them at no cost.

Returning displaced families to their home of record or relocating them to reside with supporting family members will allow for the service members to remain focused on the mission at hand. As a result, overall recovery operations will be enhanced, including ongoing assistance to the civilian communities and recovery of the affected bases. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your leadership in bringing DoD resources to bear in the national relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Sincerely,


MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress


JOE WILSON
Member of Congress



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Member of Congress



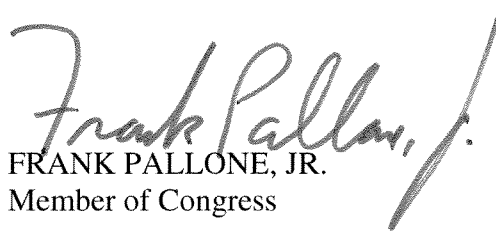
MIKE ROGERS (AL)
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



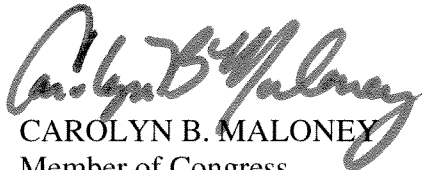
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